

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### REMEMBERING LENA HORNE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Today I would like to acknowledge the loss of one of Hollywood's brightest stars, the legendary Lena Horne. Lena Horne broke barriers as a performer. She began her career at age 16, making a name for herself as a dancer in Harlem's renowned Cotton Club in the 1930s. She became the first black performer with a major Hollywood studio contract. In 1942, Lena moved to Los Angeles, where she appeared in such movies as "Cabin in the Sky," "Meet Me in Las Vegas," and "The Wiz." Her role in the film "Stormy Weather" included her rendition of the title song, which became her trademark.

A remarkable, charismatic entertainer, Horne became one of the top-earning performers of black Hollywood by 1945. Lena is now credited with paving the way for many black actresses in Hollywood who aspire towards larger roles in film productions. Though primarily known as an entertainer, Horne also was noted for her work with civil rights and political organizations. As an actress, she refused to play roles that stereotyped African American women, and by the 1960s, she became a prominent celebrity voice in the civil rights movement. She joined in the March on Washington when Martin Luther King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech and spoke at a rally with Medgar Evers. Her one-woman show, "Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music," garnered many awards, including a Drama Critics' Circle Award and a special achievement Tony Award. In 1984, Horne received a Kennedy Center honor for lifetime contribution to the arts, and in 1989, a Grammy Award for lifetime achievement.

As a pioneer black celebrity in a time when blacks went in the back door, Lena Horne sang out, and she sang out front and entertained the Nation and the world. Her smile and her presence opened doors in a time when blacks were denied their basic civil rights. She lit up Hollywood. And we join the Nation, her family, her friends, and colleagues in mourning the loss of this legendary entertainer and civil rights activist.

#### REGULATING THE DOLLAR IS CONGRESS' RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, how long is Congress going to sit idly by while the Federal Reserve destroys the value of the U.S. dollar? On Friday, May 7, our dollar was worth only one twelve-hundredth of an ounce of gold. That means that the dollar has lost more than three-quarters of its value in just 9 years, since 2001.

Let's not kid ourselves and think the value of our dollars in terms of gold doesn't matter. Where gold prices go, other prices follow. We are either going to see the dollar price of gold fall or we are in for a blast of inflation that will crush the middle class and lead to yet another recession.

If you think that this can't happen, let me remind you that is exactly what happened in the 1970s and the early 1980s. Do we want to go back to the 1970s? Do we want to have double-digit inflation followed by double-digit unemployment? Well, that will happen unless we stabilize the U.S. dollar.

And let's not kid ourselves and think that because the dollar is rising against the euro, all is well in America. The euro and the dollar are both headed off the financial cliff. The euro is just jumping first. Mr. Speaker, how can we expect to have a stable economy or a stable financial market without a stable currency? The dollar is involved in every single transaction we do. If it moves around, it takes everything with it. We have seen in the past 2 years just how high the cost of an unstable dollar can be.

Robert Mundell, the Nobel Prize-winning economist and adviser to President Reagan, says that it was the Federal Reserve that caused the real estate bubble and bust. He says that the Fed is responsible for the economic crisis we are in today. That makes sense. It takes a lot of power to do this much damage, and there is no economic power greater than money.

Here's what happens, and people are not stupid: When the price of gold heads up, people sense that inflation is on the way. The way you protect yourself from inflation is to buy real assets with borrowed money. The longer the inflation goes on, the more leverage builds up and the bigger the ultimate crash. Well, we got the bubble in real assets in 2001 to 2007 and the crash came in 2008. Do we want another one? Isn't 9.9 percent unemployment high enough?

Mr. Speaker, I have right here a pocket Constitution that many Members carry around with them. When all else fails, we ought to read the Constitution. It says in article I, section 8, Congress shall have the power to coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures.

What this means is that Congress is supposed to set the value of the dollar. It is the constitutional duty of Congress to regulate the value of our money. But Congress ignores its legal obligation and does not regulate the value of money. What Congress does, it

gives the Fed the responsibility to regulate interest rates. But the Constitution does not give the Fed or any other government agency the power to regulate interest rates.

There's a lot of talk about how important it is that the Federal Reserve should be independent. Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that any part of the government should be independent of the Constitution. All the Fed's vaunted independence has produced is two boom-bust cycles in 10 years, the second one worse than the first.

Mr. Speaker, there is wisdom in the Constitution. That is why I have introduced H.R. 835, which is called the Dollar Bill Act. This bill would fulfill Congress' constitutional responsibility to define the value of the dollar. By doing so, we can stabilize the value of the dollar and stabilize the American economy.

Mr. Speaker, we need to hold hearings on this bill. The American people want a stable economy and a stable financial market, so we need a stable dollar. It's time for Congress to buck it up and fulfill its constitutional duty and regulate the value of the dollar.

And that's just the way it is.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. KOSMAS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KOSMAS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### HONORING CAPTAIN BRANDON BARRETT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that really concerns me about war is we lose so many fine young men and women in conflict, in the combat area. One of the finest young men in my district from Marion, Indiana, Captain Brandon Aaron Barrett, who was 27 years old, died Wednesday, May 5, while serving in Afghanistan.

Brandon was born January 21, 1983, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. As a child, Brandon was friendly and energetic, making friends with everyone he came in contact with. He played sports, and he dreamed of serving in the United States military. He wanted to be a marine.

After graduating from Marion High School in 2001, he went to the United States Naval Academy and he was very proud of that. He graduated from there in 2006. Upon graduation, Brandon was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Brandon deployed twice to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, once